

## **Central/Middle Africa Caucus Report**

### **Introduction:**

The Central/Middle Africa Regional Caucus had as goal to improve multi-stakeholder understanding of adolescent girls' health and wellbeing, and engage them to lead advocacy actions geared towards the achievement of the "Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health", and the Sustainable Development Goals(SDG), in ways that matters most for the adolescent girls in Central/Middle Africa.

After stating the case for adolescent health in central/middle Africa, the 32 caucus participants broke out into three groups to identify the Global Strategy/SDG target that matters most for adolescent girls' health in Middle/Central Africa. Each group identified a target goal, examined the barriers and opportunities surrounding the goal, and proposed an advocacy statement that can bring about the required change for girls. At the end, all three break-out groups return together to harmonize the deliberations towards a common "call to action" for Central/Middle Africa.

### **Major Caucus Outcomes**

#### **Commitments made:**

- Youth leaders and CSOs from Cameroon, Chad, Congo, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) committed to lead advocacy campaigns on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in their respective countries.
- Parliamentarians from Cameroon and DRC committed to support any youth-led / civil society advocacies for CSE.
- All caucus participants committed to keep in touch via social media to share best practices from their national advocacy actions.

#### **Networks established/strengthened:**

No network was established during the caucus but participants generally agreed to work together via social media to continue the discussions around the caucus outcomes and advocacy plan (call to action on CSE for adolescents). In line with this, the Facebook group page that was created onset to the caucus was endorsed as the official space for post-caucus interactions. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/899916200125226/>

#### **Future joint advocacy efforts**

Mindful of the geopolitical differences among the Central/Middle African nations, caucus participants agreed to organize and lead separate national advocacy actions with the call to action from the regional caucus. Find call to action on annex 1.

#### **Compelling quotes from speakers or VIPs**

"An educated girl will take fewer health risks and drive future development across all the SDGs" – *Gorna Robin, Executive Director, PMNCH*

"CSE gives young people the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their lives and provides essential links to sexual and reproductive health services" – *Anandita Philipose, UNFPA*

"Civil society organizations need to put more pressure on parliamentarians to adopt and implement programs that meet the needs of adolescents" – *Marie Rose Nguini Effa, Parliamentarian, Cameroon*

### **Caucus communications**

54 civil society activists joined the Central/Middle Africa Regional Caucus Facebook page, and contributed meaningfully to the conversations.

### **After-action plans**

Each country will decide who to engage with the caucus call to action depending on their local realities, and share updates via the [Facebook](#) group page.

For Cameroon, CASD and the other caucus participants plan to meet with the policy makers at the Ministry of Secondary Education within next months, to discuss the caucus call to action. CASD also plans to disseminate the call to action to other civil society organizations within the region not present at the caucus, hoping that it can inform their work and spark broader advocacy reaction within the region.

### **Annex materials**

- List of participants (name, country, organization) with VIPs highlighted
- Copy of final agenda
- List of caucus organizer staff
- Calls to action

**Women Deliver 4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference**

**Central/Middle Africa Regional Caucuses, May 19, 10:30-12:00, Room 180, Bella Sky Hotel, Floor 1 of Tower 2.**

**Caucus objectives**

The Central/Middle African Regional Caucus seeks to:

- Improve multi-stakeholder understanding of adolescent girls’ health rights as a key problem and opportunity towards achieving the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s health and the SDGs in Central/Middle Africa.
- Enhance multi-stakeholder engagement in advocacy action to improve adolescent girl’s health and wellbeing as basis for achieving the Global Strategy for Women’s Children and Adolescent’s health in Central/Middle Africa.

Time	Session
10:30 – 10:50	<p><b>Welcome Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Welcome statement and introduction of speakers by Numfor Munteh, Executive Director, CASD (5 Minutes)</li> <li>➤ Brief Address: “Why is increased investment on adolescent girls’ health and rights central to achieving the Global Strategy and SDGs?” by Gorna Robin, Executive Director, PMNCH. (5 Minutes)</li> <li>➤ UNFPA/WHO brief technical content on key interventions needed to foster adolescent health and wellbeing. By Anandita Philipose, UNFPA (5 Minutes)</li> <li>➤ Instructions for Breakout session by Numfor Munteh (3 Minutes)</li> </ul>
10:50 – 11:20	<p><b>Breakout Sessions : Arriving a Call to Action on Adolescent health.</b></p> <p><b>Group 1: Moderator:</b> Dr. F. R. Zawaira, Director, Family&amp; Reproductive Health, WHO/AFRO, <b>Rapporteur:</b> Nji Desmond, WD Young leader, Founder, Deserve Cameroon.</p> <p><b>Group 2: Moderator</b> Lisa Diarra, GIZ, Cameroon / <b>Rapporteur:</b> Conrad Tankou, WD Young Leader/ Gifted Mom.</p> <p><b>Group 3: Moderator:</b> Hon. Marie Rose Nguini Effa, MP, Cameroon <b>Rapporteur:</b> Joannes Paulus, WD Young Leader/ Founder, Hope for Children, CMR.</p> <p><b>FACILITATOR’S GUIDE FOR BREAK-OUT SESSIONS</b></p> <p>a) Looking at the Global Strategy Targets, which matters most for adolescent girls in Central /Middle Africa to <i>Survive, Thrive and Transform?</i> <i>[group members each pick out 1 out of the 17 targets, the moderator assemble them to find the mode]</i></p> <p>b) What could be the strongest barrier to achieving the selected target? <i>[group members each suggest one barrier and the moderator analyzes to pick out the mode]</i></p> <p>c) What opportunities do we have in central Africa to overcome the key barrier and achieve the key target? <i>[group members each suggest one opportunity in the region and the moderator analysis to pick the mode]</i></p> <p>d) Based on the outcome of our discussions, what should be our call to action as we return home? <i>[Consensus]</i></p>
11:20 – 11:50	<p><b>Report back and Group discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each break-out session present their outcomes for 5 minutes.</li> <li>• General appraisal and correlating to derive a single call to action. (15 mins) by Tayo, PMNCH.</li> </ul>
11:50 – 12:00	<p><b>Closing Session.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Summary of wrap-up, and next steps by Numfor Munteh, Executive Director, CASD (5mins)</li> <li>○ Closing Remarks by Hon. Pierre Edumbadumba, Member of Parliament, Congo. (5Mins)</li> </ul>

# A CALL TO ACTION

## Make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) matter most for Adolescent Girls in Central/Middle Africa



### OVERVIEW

Informed by the SDGs and “**Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health**”, this call is a result of deliberations at the Central/Middle Africa Regional Caucus during the Women Deliver 4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, 16 – 19 May 2016.

Cameroon Agenda for Sustainable Development (CASD) with the support of Women Deliver and Path brought together Government officials, Parliamentarians, CSO, young people, the media, UN agencies and multi-lateral institutions with stakes in Central/Middle Africa.

## THE CHALLENGE

Every year in Central and Middle Africa, many adolescent girls 15 – 19 years old;

Become  
Pregnant

Die from  
pregnancy and  
childbirth related  
Complications

Undergo  
unsafe  
abortions

Get  
HIV/STI  
infected

## THERE IS NEED FOR GIRLS TO

Make the Right Sexual &  
Reproductive Health  
Choices

Stay in  
school &  
Complete  
Education

Not be married  
under 18 years &  
freely choose the  
number & timing  
of their children

Have Better  
Income and  
Raise Healthier  
Children

## THE CALL

Ensure universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes. [SDG 3.7]

### **COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTION**

**Individuals, CSOs, Media, private sector,  
Young people**

Mobilize and engage everyone towards delivering comprehensive sexuality education, and track national/regional progress on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) commitments.

### **POLICY LEVEL ACTION**

**Governments**

Institutionalize comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in the educational systems, and allocate/increase the budget to develop CSE for adolescents starting from early childhood development.

## Advocacy focused countries



**Contact:** [advocacy@casdcam.org](mailto:advocacy@casdcam.org)  
[/nalenwi@casdcam.org](mailto:nalenwi@casdcam.org)

CENTRAL/MIDDLE AFRICA REGIONAL CAUCUS - MAY 19TH 2016  
ATTENDANCE SHEET

First Name	Last Name	Country	Organization		
Anjie	Aseneh	Cameroon	Budget Transparency Initiative		
Desmond	Atanga	Cameroon	Cameroon Youth Network		
Lisa	Diarra	Cameroon	Giz		
Marie Rose	Nguini Effa	Cameroon	National Assembly of Cameroon		
Felicitas	Zawaira	DRC	World Health Organization		
Kay	Sandberg	USA	GFH		
Robin	Gorna	Switzerland	PMNCH		
Tamitayo	Erogbogbo	Switzerland	PMNCH		
Pierre	Edumbadumba	DRC	National Assembly		
Anandita	philipose	Senegal	UNFPA		
Agwejang	Patience	Cameroon	CASD		
Benovy Princilia	Biniakounou	Congo	Association Congolaise Pour Le Bien Etre Familial		
Abassa	Byenda	DRC	U.c Berkeley School Of Law's Human Rigths Center		
Alejandra	Garcia Paton	DRC	Médecins du Monde		
Numfor	Munteh	Cameroon	Cameroon Agenda Forsustainable Development (Casd)		
Jude Thaddues	Njikem	Cameroon	Organization Of African Youth - Cameroon		
Triphonie	Nkurunziza	Congo	WHO		
Noel	Ouaimane	Chad	Planned Parenthood Association Of Chad		
Marie Claire	Ruhamya	DRC	Imara Women Empowerment Foundation		
Conrad	Tankou	Cameroon	Giftedmom		
lise van	Roy	Switzerland	MSD		
Luc	de Bernis	France	UNFPA		
Shafia	Rashid	USA	MSH		
Arianna	Nagle	USA	Chemonics		
Nehsuh	Carine	Cameroon	Women Empowerment Network, Cameroon		
Ebeka	Pelagie	DRC	AFEJUCO		
Alimatu	Dimonekere	DRC	PROJECT ACEI		
Moricor	Newman	Zimbabwe	WHO -AFRO		
Vincent	Nacidze	Zambia	CRHE		
Joannes	Paolus	Cameroon	Hope for Children Cameroon		
Brian			PATH		